

ABSTRACT

APPARATUS FOR MEASURING THE STRENGTH OF A PERSON'S RESPIRATORY MUSCLES

Apparatus (2) for measuring the strength of a person's respiratory muscles, which apparatus (2) comprises a mouthpiece (4) for the person, a flow transducer, a pressure transducer (6), a variable orifice valve (10), a motor (12) for operating the variable orifice valve (10), and microprocessor control means (8), the microprocessor control means being such that it is able to control the motor (12) to cause the variable orifice valve (10) to vary its orifice size and thereby to maintain a constant predetermined pressure and enable the measurement of the flow rate generated by the person, or to maintain a constant predetermined flow rate and enable the measurement of the pressure generated by the person.